

Anne Morgan Talks of Finance and France; Believes Every Girl Should Have a Career



By Hannah Mitchell

MISS ANNE MORGAN, vice-president of the American Committee for Devastated France

"We SAID we went into the war to defeat the Boche," said Miss Anne Morgan, leaning against a table and emphasizing her remarks with an incisive finger, "but no one in his senses would say that the Boches have been defeated. They scuttled their fleet, they have not demobilized and they have not paid one cent of their indemnities. They have managed to evade every penalty."

Carrying On

"In the first place, France needs the ratification of the treaty and the execution of its terms. She doesn't need philanthropy. As long as the treaty is put off and none of the indemnities from Germany are paid France needs long-term credits. And she needs understanding."

The American Committee for Devastated France, whose leaders were the first Americans to announce to stricken refugees of Northern France that America was "coming in," is still operating in the shell-ridden, muddy land of four of the stricken departments. It did not celebrate the armistice by pulling up stakes and leaving France. And its members maintain that they will not leave until their charges are able to take care of themselves.

Mrs. A. M. Dike, commissioner of the American committee in France, returned to New York a few days ago. She is fresh from the field of the committee's activities and gives an idea of the entire situation in France to-day.

"Revolution a Bluff"

"The morale of the French was never better than it is to-day," said Mrs. Dike; "with 57 per cent of its young man power gone, with the heaviest taxation ever imposed, and lacking in material with which to work, it is setting about its job of getting on its feet again. And it will do it, even though it takes twenty, thirty or forty years."

"The recent revolution in Germany was a bluff. I left France before it actually broke, but every one in France knew it was coming. The '19-20 class in France was called out two weeks before the revolution in Germany. France is the frontier of civilization, and France knows the dangers of living next door to an unruly neighbor who has broken all promises and is not to be trusted."

"When the young men nineteen and twenty years of age were called out just as the country was getting back into working condition it meant another readjustment. Young men went from the fields, from business and from the professions, where they are so needed just now. But I heard little complaint. Even with this slight set-back France intends to get back to work."

Real Americanization

"All classes work together with a determined spirit. The Millerand ministry adopted the Clemenceau program. During the recent strike



AN American girl at the door of a wrecked home in France

the entire country volunteered to work to keep things going. Little was made of that situation in France by the newspapers in America. When the Governor of Massachusetts puts down a strike of policemen in Boston, the whole country comments upon it. But when the entire people of a nation meets a similar situation with unity and force, little is said about it.

"France is our sister republic in imperialistic Europe. There is no socialism, no Bolshevism in France. And it seems to me that the thing America needs most to-day is enlightenment on Europe."

French Studying Us

"It is a fact that there is more real Americanization being done in France to-day than there is in this country. The French are studying our institutions, our schools, our governmental departments and all our phases of life. I believe in an interchange of ideas between the two countries."

"France has sent pupils from its colleges and schools to America for education. It has sent commissioners of its agricultural work over here, and all with an eye to understanding American ways and American life."

"Even the Boy Scouts of France want to know what the Boy Scouts in America are doing and how they are trained."

Mrs. Dike said the French had had a hard time understanding the delay in ratification of the peace treaty by America. And another point which tends to discourage is the fact that Germany is being put on its feet before France is in condition to "come back." Here Miss Morgan became stirred.

"France is being forced to forge the sword for her own throat. If Germany is put on her feet ahead of France, if Germany is not forced to pay the indemnities to France required of her under the treaty, France will always be that many years behind Germany."

Boundary of Civilization

"Every fifty years or so France has been invaded. History shows what her life has been. And if Germany is helped to a position of security before France, history will probably repeat itself."

"And this fact is vital to the rest of the world. We in this country should have learned the importance of that boundary line of France. We admit, if we are honest, that we didn't go into the European war until we ourselves were affected. We didn't go in when Belgium was invaded, we didn't go in when the Lusitania was sunk. We went in when our own commerce and our shipping were affected and endangered."

"Then we went to France and our men left a glorious record for

their work in the war. They were sent home leaving good feeling and gratitude in the minds of the French. And now for fifteen months America has been out of communication with the French. There has not been even telephonic connection."

Miss Morgan and Mrs. Dike received me at Miss Morgan's studio, 4 West Fortieth Street, last week. Miss Morgan chose to throw the interview to Mrs. Dike because of her recent return from France. But try as she would to submerge her own personality, it simply couldn't be done.

Fairy Tales of Finance

There is a distinct reason for this.

In the first place Miss Morgan is so vitally interested in France that she could not help expressing herself. She is so alive on every subject that she simply overflows with "good lines." Her ideas on exchange rates and credits, the manner in which she tosses these subjects about, are indicative of her inheritance. One wonders whether her fairy tales as a child were not interspersed with economic terms and systems of finance. It is easy to see that she

AN American girl up a rickety flight of steps to carry relief to one of the homes in the devastated region of France

would readily make her knowledge and her judgment felt among the business men she has been interviewing throughout the country.

Anne Morgan has always been doing things. Before the war she took an interest in the working girls. She was part of the advance guard of the movement to improve conditions socially and industrially for girls earning their own living. When the war in Europe started she went to France and has been active in relief work ever since.

Regarding her work for devastated France, Miss Morgan fortifies the sentimental side, which is to be considered, of course, with cold facts concerning America's relations to France. She is thoroughly American, but she has achieved an international viewpoint and she applies this commercially and industrially.

On her tour through the South Miss Morgan wore the uniform of the American Committee for Dev-

astated France. Last week, however, she was dressed in perfectly feminine civilian clothes. She is taller than the average woman, but so well proportioned that she does not give the impression of being unusually tall except when standing beside a woman of average size.

Interview on the Steps

She has magnetism and is charmingly human in her manner. She walks about when talking, sits for a few moments relaxed in an easy chair, then leans against a table to expatiate on long-time credits.

The interviewer was a few moments ahead of her appointed hour, and Miss Morgan and Mrs. Dike arrived to find the door of the studio locked and the reporter leaning against the stair railing. No keys were available for several moments until John, the janitor, came to the rescue of "Miss Morgan." But the interview was started on the carpeted steps up to the studio.

The studio is at the back of the building. Great easy chairs and good looking rugs make it a place for comfort. Tea tables, a desk and a refectory table show that it is used both for business and hos-

pitality. There are rose colored draperies at the windows, and scattered about the room in single flower vases were pink roses and daffodils. Above all, the studio is a room for comfort and for use.

"American women have made a splendid and an intelligent response wherever I have gone," said Miss Morgan; "the business men have organized completely and voluntarily, on the one hand, and committees of a hundred women have been started as independent organizations in the same towns."

Says Girl Should Work

"Wherever I went I found firm friends in the girls who had been overseas on war service. They greeted me as if I had been some one from home and were eager to do anything for France that was within their power. The men who had seen service in France were always staunch supporters, also."

"Many of these overseas service girls were society girls before the war who never had a serious thought. They have not gone back to their teas and dances contentedly. The girls who were in France have a worth while idea as to some sort of duty toward life, and most of them learned it in France."

"Every girl should be brought up to do something worth while. Work is my theme of life. And every girl should learn the value and the pleasure in work."

Clubs of One Hundred

Anne Morgan is a splendid example of the girl who works and does things because she wants to, and not because she has to. And, still, maybe she has had to. She is possessed of a tireless spirit of work and activity. She could not be happy unless she was doing something. And so, after all, probably she works because she "has to."

The plan for the clubs of one hundred women which she has organized for the American Committee for Devastated France is for twenty women of the town to join the committee and pledge themselves to give \$5 a month to the work in the devastated region. They also promise to get five other members each who will make the same contribution.

A résumé of the work of the committee in France given to these women says:

"Out of devastation and ruin in the Department of the Aisne, one hundred villages are springing to life under the auspices of the American Committee for Devastated France; 17,562 people have returned out of a normal population of 50,000."

Care of the Children

"Sixty-nine school teachers have returned to one hundred villages, and sixty-nine school shelters have been equipped by the American committee. There are no schoolhouses, only shelters that were once bomb proof dugouts, or temporary wooden barracks."

"In the hundred villages are 4,000 children to be fed and educated. The American committee must feed them every day with hot cocoa and biscuits."

"One thousand children are under the care of the child hygiene expert. 'Thousands of acres have been ruined by war. The American com-

mittee has organized thirty agricultural syndicates and loaned thirty-eight tractors."

"Twenty-five merchants have been reinstated and are self-supporting. 'More than one hundred carpenters have found employment."

"Workrooms for women have been opened."

"Some churches have been sufficiently repaired for the celebration of mass."

"Dispensaries and a hospital have been equipped and thousands who have had no medical care since 1914 have been treated."

Miss Morgan's Message

Miss Morgan's personal message to the women is:

"It is essential that we keep up the right kind of relations between America and France. I have such a deep faith in America that I know she will want to go to the assistance of France if she understands the urgency of the need. France is doing everything possible to shoulder the colossal burden herself, but the task of bringing back the people and of bringing back the soil of a desolate waste of battlefield is stupendous and cannot be done overnight. Surely we cannot feel that we have done our part in the war unless we are willing to share in the work of reconstruction."

In New York society girls are helping in the work of the American committee. Many of them serve at the little tearoom on East Thirtieth Street. All service for the committee is volunteer, but the girls who give their services are as meticulous and punctilious as girls working at similar occupations for their livelihood.

The Committee's Tearoom

This little tea and lunch room gives off the essence of the American committee's spirit. It is a bright, cheerful place, small but complete and comfortable; part of an old barn. The walls are decorated with well chosen photographs of the area in France where the committee serves. The little tables and chairs are painted yellow, and on each table is a diminutive orange tree. The only persons employed there who receive salaries are the cook and the dishwasher.

Miss Maude Mortimer Johnston is in charge of the tearoom, and her name and the fact that she volunteers her services might suggest that she was a condescending lady who occasionally came in to preside in a grand fashion over the cashier's desk.

If you go to the tearoom, however, you will search in vain for any such person. If you insist upon having Miss Johnston pointed out, the first person you ask may not realize just who you wish to see.

Society Girls as Waiters

To your bewildered inquiry she may explain that Miss Johnston's nickname at the luncheon was for a long time "Tiddy." This was given her by one of her co-workers who insisted that she was bright and forever flitting about the tearoom so that she reminded them all of a tidilywink. Hence the name "Tiddy."

However, delivery boys, loamen and the like in perfectly good faith came to the luncheon invariably asking for "Miss Tiddy."

And the significance of the name "Tiddy" soon struck the girls in the tearoom and they have insisted upon calling Miss Johnston "Tiddy."

If you insist upon having her identified you may find that she is the very person who is at that moment clearing away the dishes or doing some other bus boy's job. Miss Johnston has been with the luncheon ever since it started, has seen it through hard times, but has kept on smiling and working tirelessly.

The waitresses in the tearoom, each of whom has a Fifth or a Madison Avenue address, wear horizon blue smocks that remind you of French workmen or Greenwich Village artists.

Back to France Soon

Above the tearoom are the office rooms of the American committee. These are headquarters for all of the work in this country and the liaison offices with the office of the committee in France.

Miss Morgan has been in this country for about five months and has aroused the interest of people in many states. She and Mrs. Dike will return to France next month.

Miss Grace Parker, known for her work during the war with the National League for Woman's Service, will have charge of much of the campaign work in this country. She is now on a speaking tour through the Northwest.

Of course, the American Committee for Devastated France wants Americans as individuals to contribute to its work. The present campaign is for \$2,000,000. But Miss Morgan's attitude about the fund leaves the impression that none but "grateful" dollars will be welcomed.

